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Web Audio: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2006/unemployment/multimedia/march06\\_state\\_lmi\\_042006.mp3](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2006/unemployment/multimedia/march06_state_lmi_042006.mp3)

## MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

### Adjusted Data

**Madison** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's preliminary, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 4.7 percent. The state's rate was the same as the national measure. March's seasonally adjusted rate was one-tenth of a percentage point lower than February's finalized rate and it was also one-tenth of a point lower compared to March 2005.

### Unadjusted Data

The state's preliminary, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in March, which was two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the prior month and was lower than the rate in March 2005 by one-tenth of a point. The improvement in the state's unemployment rate over last year was the result of almost 41,000 more employed residents and 1,000 fewer unemployed compared to March 2005.

"Our gains of 10,600 more jobs in March and 35,000 over the past year, show our economy continues to gain strength. With a majority of our employment sectors showing increases in the number of jobs, the figures for March indicate that Wisconsin's labor market remains healthy and moving in the right direction," Secretary Gassman said.

The state's preliminary estimates of nonfarm wage and salary employment totaled 2,816,600 jobs in March. March's total represented a net increase of 10,600 jobs over the month. The majority of the state's employment sectors showed monthly gains in jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector produced the largest monthly employment gain with 3,600 more jobs. Wholesale and retail trade, combined, gained 2,300 more jobs. Federal, state and local government employment posted a monthly gain of 2,200 jobs. In the goods-producing sectors, manufacturing employment decreased by 1,400 jobs, while the construction sector gained 400 jobs.

The state's job tally compared to March 2005 shows a net gain of 35,000 jobs. The bulk of this net increase was measured in the leisure and hospitality (+14,300 jobs) and education and health services (+13,200 jobs) sectors. Construction employment continued its record employment levels with 9,200 more jobs than one year ago. The manufacturing sector has 1,200 more jobs over the past year. Transportation, warehousing and utilities posted the state's largest job decrease with 3,100 fewer jobs. Professional and business services employment has 1,900 fewer jobs compared March 2005.

March employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available April 26, 2006. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

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**WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
In Thousands

| ITEM                                  | NET CHANGE FROM                               |                 |                    |              |             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                       | PRELIM.<br>MAR 06                             | FINAL<br>FEB 06 | YEAR AGO<br>MAR 05 | MONTH<br>AGO | YEAR<br>AGO |
| <b>PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA</b>        | NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES |                 |                    |              |             |
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE                  | 3052.2                                        | 3042.3          | 3012.6             | 9.9          | 39.6        |
| UNEMPLOYMENT                          | 168.3                                         | 173.7           | 169.3              | -5.4         | -1.0        |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE                     | 5.5                                           | 5.7             | 5.6                | -0.2         | -0.1        |
| EMPLOYMENT (1)                        | 2883.9                                        | 2868.6          | 2843.3             | 15.3         | 40.6        |
| <b>PLACE OF WORK DATA</b>             |                                               |                 |                    |              |             |
| <b>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</b>      | 2816.6                                        | 2806            | 2781.6             | 10.6         | 35.0        |
| TOTAL PRIVATE                         | 2395.1                                        | 2386.7          | 2359.7             | 8.4          | 35.4        |
| GOODS PRODUCING                       | 625.2                                         | 626.2           | 615                | -1.0         | 10.2        |
| NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING            | 3.3                                           | 3.3             | 3.5                | 0.0          | -0.2        |
| CONSTRUCTION                          | 121                                           | 120.6           | 111.8              | 0.4          | 9.2         |
| MANUFACTURING                         | 500.9                                         | 502.3           | 499.7              | -1.4         | 1.2         |
| Durable Goods                         | 315                                           | 316.1           | 314.3              | -1.1         | 0.7         |
| Nondurable Goods                      | 185.9                                         | 186.2           | 185.4              | -0.3         | 0.5         |
| SERVICE PRODUCING                     | 2191.4                                        | 2179.8          | 2166.6             | 11.6         | 24.8        |
| TRADE                                 | 425.5                                         | 423.2           | 422.3              | 2.3          | 3.2         |
| Wholesale Trade                       | 116.3                                         | 115.8           | 114.9              | 0.5          | 1.4         |
| Retail Trade                          | 309.2                                         | 307.4           | 307.4              | 1.8          | 1.8         |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES        | 103.6                                         | 102.8           | 106.7              | 0.8          | -3.1        |
| Utilities                             | 11.4                                          | 11.3            | 11.4               | 0.1          | 0.0         |
| INFORMATION                           | 48.9                                          | 49.1            | 49.3               | -0.2         | -0.4        |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES                  | 157.5                                         | 157.4           | 158.1              | 0.1          | -0.6        |
| Finance and Insurance                 | 130.2                                         | 130.2           | 131.1              | 0.0          | -0.9        |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Lease          | 27.3                                          | 27.2            | 27                 | 0.1          | 0.3         |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES      | 252.8                                         | 252.8           | 254.7              | 0.0          | -1.9        |
| Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services       | 90.3                                          | 90.6            | 92.7               | -0.3         | -2.4        |
| Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises    | 41.2                                          | 41.2            | 40.9               | 0.0          | 0.3         |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services | 121.3                                         | 121             | 121.1              | 0.3          | 0.2         |
| EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES         | 393.5                                         | 392.3           | 380.3              | 1.2          | 13.2        |
| Educational Services                  | 54.8                                          | 54.8            | 48.4               | 0.0          | 6.4         |
| Health Care & Social Assistance       | 338.7                                         | 337.5           | 331.9              | 1.2          | 6.8         |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                 | 252                                           | 248.4           | 237.7              | 3.6          | 14.3        |
| Arts, Entertain., & Recreation        | 29.4                                          | 29.3            | 28.2               | 0.1          | 1.2         |
| Accommodation & Food Services         | 222.6                                         | 219.1           | 209.5              | 3.5          | 13.1        |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin   | 136.1                                         | 134.5           | 135.6              | 1.6          | 0.5         |
| GOVERNMENT                            | 421.5                                         | 419.3           | 421.9              | 2.2          | -0.4        |
| Federal Government                    | 28.9                                          | 28.8            | 29                 | 0.1          | -0.1        |
| State Government                      | 107.7                                         | 106.7           | 104.1              | 1.0          | 3.6         |
| Local Government                      | 284.9                                         | 283.8           | 288.8              | 1.1          | -3.9        |
| PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES      | 0.0                                           | 0.0             | 0.0                | 0.0          | 0.0         |
| (1) Includes L-M Disputes             |                                               |                 |                    |              |             |
|                                       | SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES     |                 |                    |              |             |
| <b>CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE</b>           | 3074.8                                        | 3066.1          | 3041.5             | 8.7          | 33.3        |
| UNEMPLOYMENT                          | 143.8                                         | 147.1           | 146.0              | -3.3         | -2.2        |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE                     | 4.7                                           | 4.8             | 4.8                | -0.1         | -0.1        |
| EMPLOYMENT                            | 2931.0                                        | 2919.1          | 2895.5             | 11.9         | 35.5        |

\*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information